



# Community Newsletter

## TOWN OF MESILLA

Dec. 2017

### A Message From Our Mayor

Dear Mesilla Residents:

Dear Mesilla Residents:  
Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays to you and your families. It continues to be an honor and a pleasure serving as your mayor and representing the Town of Mesilla at local and state events. I have had the privilege of speaking to various organizations and committees to request funding, services and to take a stand on issues that affect the Town of Mesilla.

As the year comes to an end, I wanted to give you an update on some of the projects we have been working on. During the 2017 Legislative Session there were no funds available for capital outlay money for municipalities to fund infrastructure projects. But with some hard work I am happy to report that the Town of Mesilla was able to acquire funding. Here is an overview of the projects we will pursue with these monies:

- The town applied to the New Mexico Finance Authority for two grants, each for \$50,000, to update our 2004 Comprehensive Plan and to create an Asset Management Plan. Both projects have been 100% funded and approved by the Board of Trustees. The Mesilla Comprehensive Plan is an action-oriented tool containing policies that provide a vision to the future growth and development of the Mesilla community.

It also serves as a guide for decisions on land use, code enforcement, spending priorities, community needs and the enhancement of the community character. The Asset Management Plan identifies resources to implement the plan, focus on making cost-effective decisions and providing a sustainable level of customer service.

- The water loop project on Snow Road has been completed at a cost of approximately \$400,000. It was fully funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New Mexico Environmental Department.
- The New Mexico Department of Transportation has provided all the necessary funding for three road projects on Calle Santa Ana, Calle Segunda and Calle Primera.
- The sewer installation project on McDowell road is in the process of getting started and should be completed by Spring 2018. This project is funded through 2015, 2016 capital outlay money and some funding through New Mexico Environment Department.

As you can see, we are continually looking for funding opportunities. All departments have done a wonderful job of searching for funding sources and attended training sessions to improve their departments and keep up to date on regulations and safety practices. Please thank them for their dedication and



commitment to the Town of Mesilla.

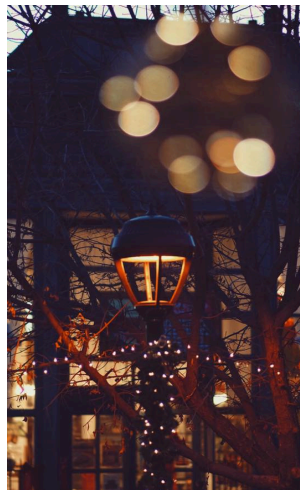
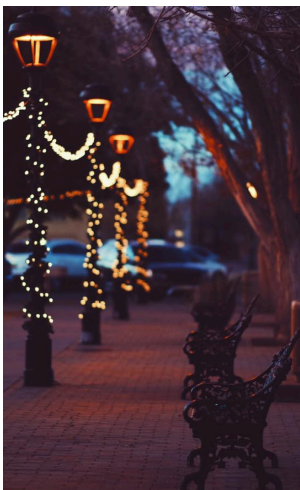
I also wanted to acknowledge those who have helped the Town of Mesilla through volunteer efforts and donations. These volunteers, businesses, schools, churches and organizations were recognized by the Board of Trustees and presented with Certificates of Appreciation. We cannot thank them enough for all they do for the Town of Mesilla residents and the students at Mesilla Elementary.

As the new year approaches, new goals are being set to address the needs of the community. I invite you all to participate in these discussions as I will be hosting a community meeting at the Community Center on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Please know that I continue to work honestly and tirelessly, along with the Board of Trustees, business owners, constituents and staff, to raise issues for discussion and to develop plans that address the communities needs and concerns. I ask for your patience and support as we continue to work together to make our town a great place to live, to work and to raise our families. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

Sincerely,

*Nora L. Savary*



# Town of Mesilla Finance Department

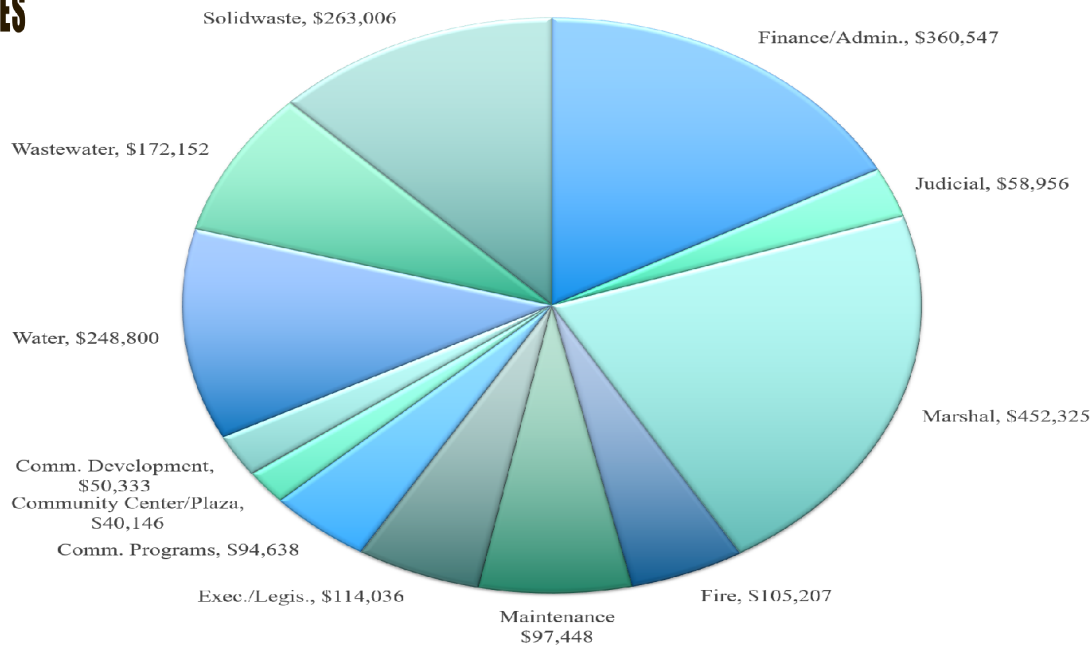
## A GLANCE BACK AT FY 2016-2017

The Town's General Fund is comprised of various departments: finance, judicial, marshal, fire, maintenance, executive/legislative, community programs, community center/plaza, and community development. Each department is responsible for their own department's budget. The Enterprise Fund is comprised of the Town's Water Services, Wastewater services and Solid Waste services.

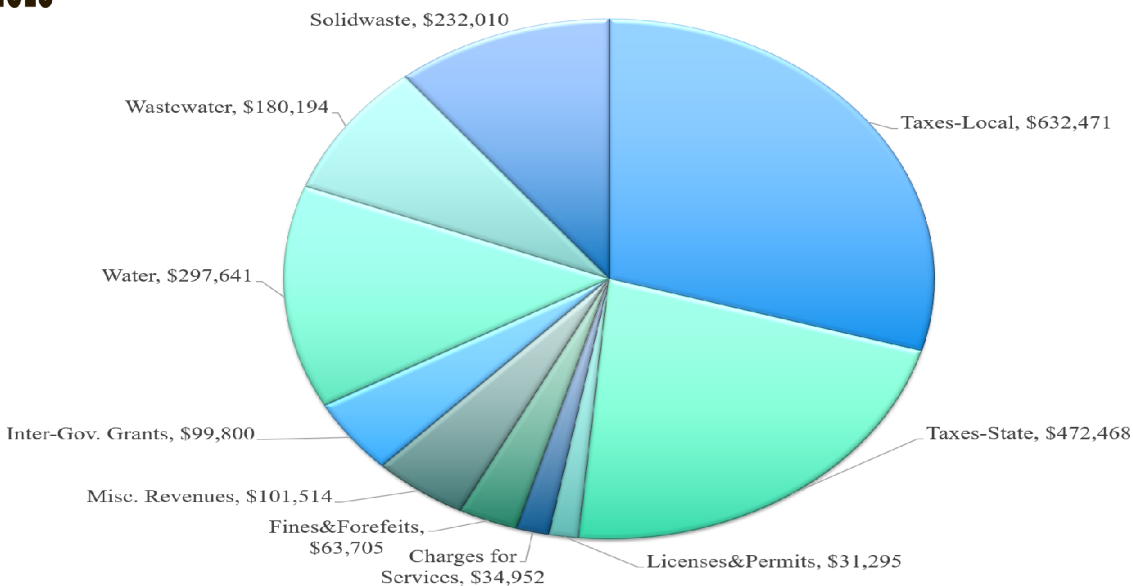
In fiscal year 2016-2017, the General Fund revenues totaled \$1,436,204. We had a total of \$1,416,719 expenditures with a remainder of \$19,485 for last fiscal year. The Enterprise Fund continues to grow slowly. We are being vigilant in what items we are expending these funds on and constantly looking for new ways to improve the quality of service we provide to our residents. The Town's Gross Receipts Taxes continue to increase. At the end of June 2017, we were up 2% from the previous fiscal year. We are seeing a trend of increasing tourism to the area with the added Town sponsored events from the Summer Music Series, the Pecan Festival, and the Halloween Carnival.

Below are pie charts depicting the Town's expenditures and revenues:

## FUND EXPENDITURES



## FUND REVENUES



## Town of Mesilla Administration & Finance Department (524-3262)

**Nora L. Barraza, Mayor** (ext. 106)

**Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer** (ext. 105)

**Gloria Maya, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer** (ext. 115)

**Pam Bateman, Accounts Payable/Utility Clerk**

**Sally Mariscal, Utility Clerk Assistant**

# Town of Mesilla Community Development Department

The Holiday Season is here again. (It seems to roll around a little quickly for those of us still getting ready for Memorial Day of 2017.) For those of you who have not done it yet, it is time to put away Summer and Fall items and bring out the winter clothes and holiday decorations. It is time to transition from planting and growing trees to decorating trees. Away go the pruning shears and flower pots and out come the luminarias and Christmas lights. Work around the house or shop that has been put off until now has to be completed before guests arrive and visitors flood the Plaza. There is so much to be done before the Holidays hit us. Since Mesilla is a special historical community (and proud of it), certain laws and requirements for the community have been in effect for many years to preserve the "specialness" of Mesilla. Some of these laws affect anything done in the Town that might affect how the Town looks to visitors. That is why many times permits are required for work that many think shouldn't require a

permit. Please, keep in mind that any work that affects how a structure appears; including painting, patching or trim paint probably requires a permit (Most times this can be filled out and completed right away with little waiting.) Of course, in addition to what is seen from the outside, permits may be required by the International Building Code for most interior remodeling, additions, etc. Most of this is done by the State, but local permission is required first. Many permits for smaller projects do not cost anything, just simply filling out a short form. If you are not certain if a permit is required for your upcoming project, or would like further information about the requirements, please call Larry at the Mesilla Town Hall at 575-524-3262 extension 104 just to be on the safe side. (Remember-if you pick up a can of paint and a paint brush and walk outside, please...call me before you open the can.

## Winter is Here! HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Even though this a joyous time of year, it can be stressful because there is so much to be done, especially when it comes to preparing for visitors. So...before you schedule that holiday party or family gathering, you can relieve some of that stress by setting aside some time to do some early prep-work. First, take a look at your property:

- Are any of your walkways or approaches unsightly or need some fill-in work or repair?
- Are the tree branches or cacti overgrown, fallen, or blocking pathways, roads, or sidewalks?
- Are there still items outside from your Summer barbeque or spring cleaning?
- Are last year's holiday lights, luminarias, and ornaments in safe working condition and ready to install?
- Is it safe for someone to walk around your house or shop? (Do you have advertising or displays that may trip or block them, or otherwise get in their way?)

## 2018 PLANNING & ZONING SCHEDULE OF DEADLINES AND MEETINGS

MEETING DATE	DEADLINE	MEETING DATE	DEADLINE
JAN. 2	DEC. 22, 2017 (Fri)	JUL. 2	JUN. 22
16	JAN. 5	16	JUL. 6
FEB. 5	JAN. 26	AUG. 6	JUL. 20
20 (Tues)	FEB. 9	20	AUG. 3
MAR. 5	FEB. 23	SEPT. 4 (Tues)	AUG. 17
19	MAR. 9	17	SEPT. 7
APR. 2	MAR. 23	OCT. 1	SEPT. 21
16	APR. 5 (Thurs)	15	OCT. 5
MAY 7	APR. 27	NOV. 5	OCT. 19
21	MAY 11	19	NOV. 2
JUN. 1	MAY 25	DEC. 3	NOV. 16
18	JUN. 8	17	DEC. 7

If your project should require review by the Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission (PZHAC), their meetings are on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in Town Hall. If there is a holiday on a meeting date, the meeting will be held on the next day (Tuesday). Work Sessions are held just prior to the regular meeting, and start between 5:00 and 5:45 pm, depending on the number of work session items to be heard. The deadline for submitting information heard is typically Friday prior to the meeting. (I will be happy to let you know what you need to do.) The following is their schedule for 2017.

**Town of Mesilla Community Development Department (524-3262)**

**Larry Shannon, Community Development Coordinator (Ext. 104)**



# Town of Mesilla Fire Department

## Squad Program

If you have been to main station recently you may have noticed a unit that looks like an ambulance there. This vehicle was donated to us by the Deming Fire Department and will be built out to equip our initiative to have a transport capable unit to respond to EMS calls. The unit will be a Squad Response unit and will be outfitted to provide patient care for medical and trauma emergencies as well as transport, should the county EMS provider be in overload or during a mass casualty event. It will also be a training platform for volunteer EMTs who are not necessarily interested in firefighting. Currently there are no volunteer services in Dona Ana County that provide this scope of training.

## Explorer Post 2150

Our fire explorer program continues to be an exciting opportunity for high school students to learn and train to be first responders. We currently have nearly a dozen young men and women who train regularly in fire suppression and medical response. Several of the explorers have attained certification as Emergency Medical Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians. They have also volunteered in providing assistance in 5K runs, special events and community outreaches. They are led by Captain Andrew Embury who does an outstanding job of keeping them motivated and engaged.

## Opioid Crisis

Experts say the United States is in the throes of an opioid epidemic, as more than two million of Americans have become dependent on or abuse prescription pain pills. Street Opioids are drugs formulated to replicate the pain reducing properties of opium. In response to this, the White House in October declared this to be a public health crisis.

The Mesilla Fire Department, in response to this ever present problem, has initiated a program to train and equip the Mesilla Marshal's staff to respond to this crisis. Each deputy is trained in the administration of drugs used to counteract the effects of opioid overdoses. We are also awaiting the arrival of kits to be carried by each deputy for use in such an emergency.

## Heater Safety

Colder weather is upon us which means folks are turning on heaters and fireplaces to ward off winter chills. Please take the time to look over the following articles to help keep you and your loved ones safe.



Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

## Town of Mesilla Fire Department (523-1311)

**Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief**  
**Jason Floyd, Assistant Chief**  
**Chad Zecha, Deputy Chief**  
**Gregory Whited, Prevention Captain**  
**Andy Embry, Support Captain**

**Gabriel Gil, Lieutenant**  
**Max Gillis, Lieutenant**  
**Edward Padilla, Lieutenant**  
**Scott Gafford, Fire Inspector**  
**Colter Whiting, EMT**  
**Gale Fulte, Chaplain**

**Firefighters**  
Robert Alvidrez  
Nathan Carr  
Armando Gomez  
Joshua Gonzales  
Umberto Manriquez

**Fire Cadets:**  
Laurisa Bertoldo  
Marco Chairez  
Aaron Cruz  
Izaak Lujan  
Eric Miller  
Matthew Rivera  
Erika Washburn

# Town of Mesilla Fire Department

## **Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Killer**

From the US Consumer Product Safety Commission

- More than 400 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 20,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 4,000 others are hospitalized. Where Does Carbon Monoxide Come From?



Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, striking victims caught off guard or in their sleep. This "silent killer" is produced by burning fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, portable generators or furnaces. When the gas builds up in enclosed spaces, people or animals who breathe it can be poisoned. Ventilation does not guarantee safety.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission says about 170 people in the United States die every year from carbon monoxide produced by non-automotive consumer products, such as room heaters. So as the weather turns colder, it's important to take extra precautions. Who is at Risk? Exposure to carbon monoxide can result in permanent neurological damage or death, and anyone can be at risk.

The CDC says infants, the elderly, and people with chronic heart disease, anemia or breathing problems are more prone to illness or death, but carbon monoxide doesn't discriminate – especially if certain conditions are present. In July 2015, for example, four young people and a dog were found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning inside a cabin in Maine. Authorities believe they went to bed without shutting off a gas-powered generator running in the basement.

## Town of Mesilla Marshal's Department

**G**reetings! It has been slightly over a year since I was appointed to lead law enforcement efforts here in Town. I remain singularly focused on improving services to the citizens of the Town of Mesilla. I am privileged to lead a fine group of professionals comprising the Marshal's Department. Your current Mesilla Marshal's Department staff: Marshal K.C. Alberg, Lieutenant Enrique Salas, Professional Standards Officer Robert Parra, Sergeant Lance Shepan, Detective Manny Cortez, Master Deputy Ben Azcarate, Deputy Edward Madson, Reserve Deputy/Tactical Medic Colter Whiting, Community Service Officer Matthew Rivera and Public Safety Receptionist Ophelia

Gonzales. Please be aware that there is traditionally an increase in burglaries and thefts around the holidays. Please be observant of your surroundings and that of your neighbors. Most holiday crime happens during the day when you're away or appear to be away. Be sure to make your home appear to be occupied. Consider using a timer for interior and exterior lights. Make sure newspapers aren't piling up, as they may signal that you're away. If you'd like our office to stop by your home when you're on vacation, please let us know. We want to help! The Mesilla Marshal's Department will be actively enforcing the Animal Control provisions of the Mesilla

Town Code. Dogs and cats must be currently licensed and vaccinated. The agency will sell pet licenses that will be good for a calendar year. Please call your local protectors any time you encounter a law enforcement or animal control problem within Mesilla. The Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority can be reached at (575) 526-0795 (option #6), for non-emergent matters. For reports and general information, our front office at the Mesilla Public Safety Building is normally scheduled for service Monday through Thursday 09:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For emergencies, please don't hesitate to call 911! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### **Town of Mesilla Marshal's Department (526-4138)**

**K.C. Alberg, Marshal**  
**Enrique Salas, Lieutenant**  
**Ben Azcarate, Master Deputy**  
**Manny Cortez, Detective**  
**Ophelia Gonzales, Receptionist**

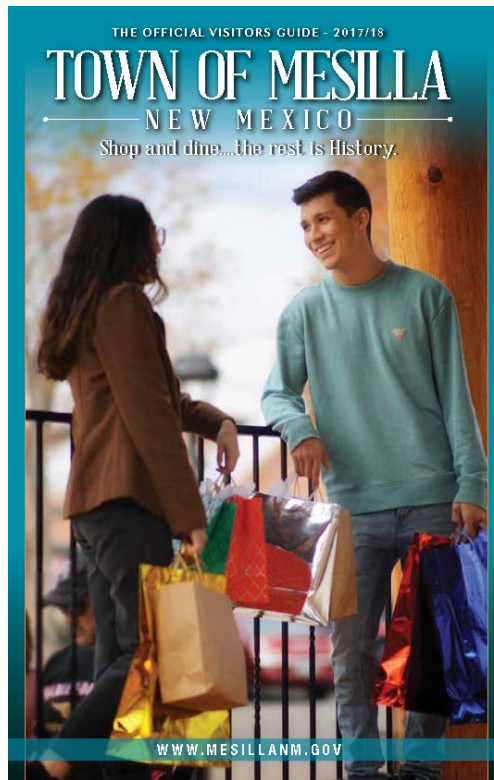
**Lance Shapen, Sergeant**  
**Edward Madson, Deputy Marshal**  
**Robert Parra, Professional Standards Officers**  
**Colter Whiting, Reserve Deputy/Tactical Medic**  
**Matthew Rivera, Community Service Officer**



# Town of Mesilla Community Programs Department

The Town of Mesilla reached new heights this year, landing on Mars! A newly discovered rock formation on Mars was named after Mesilla by NASA's Martian rover. This is part of an endeavor, as the rover makes its way down a crater multiple rock formations will be named after historic places along the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Mesilla is proud to be the first one named!

The Town of Mesilla was happy to welcome the Dona Ana Arts Council to Mesilla. DAAC executive director Kathleen Albers says, "We are excited about finally getting the boxes unpacked and hope the public will come help us imagine the possibilities for this beautiful new space. With such wonderful windows, tall ceilings, wood floors, and wall space, we can easily host art classes, dance workshops and art exhibits. DAAC's baby grand piano is here, so concerts and cabaret-style shows are also possible."



The Dona Ana Arts Council is located at 1740 Calle de Mercado.

The Town of Mesilla continues to receive recognitions for our local charm and history. This year Mesilla was listed as one of the "Budget-Friendly Road Trips" in New Mexico, by Onlyinyourstate.com. Our efforts to promote the Town of Mesilla continue with the production of the second edition Visitors Guide! (A copy of the cover is seen here to the left.) Featured within the guide is information on history, day trips, listing of merchants including restaurants, shops and hotels, as well as a Calendar of Events for 2018. Copies are available at town hall in the visitors center. The coming year will see another Summer Music Series in the plaza, along with the ever popular Food Truck Fiestas and New Mexico Pecan Festival! For a full Calendar of Events or other promotional videos visit: [www.mesillanm.gov](http://www.mesillanm.gov)

I will continue to work vigorously to ensure that we are offering the best events and recreational opportunities and will continue to make tourism the number one priority in the department, for the overall success of the Town of Mesilla.

## Awards & Recognitions



- 2016 Best Travel Destination (On a Budget)  
USA Today



- 2016 Top 6 Best Historic Plazas in New Mexico  
Only in your state



- 2015 Top 10 Small Towns to visit  
Culture Trip (International Online Magazine)



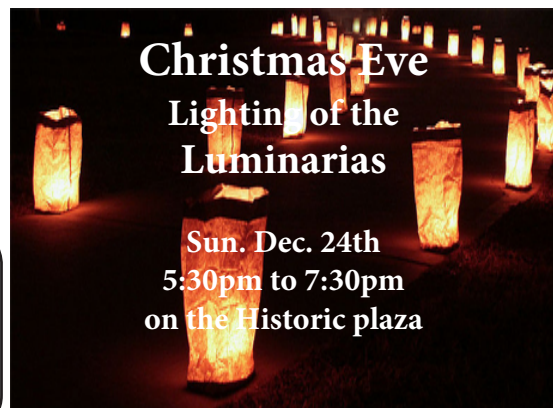
- 2013/2014 Official Best Vacation Getaway  
National Official Best of

### Pilates Classes

Monday's & Thursday's  
5:00pm to 5:45pm  
Mesilla Community Center  
Suggested Donation: \$3 to \$5

### Argentine Tango Lessons

Tuesdays at 6:30pm  
Mesilla Community Center  
Cover: \$5



### Christmas Eve Lightin' of the Luminarias

Sun. Dec. 24th  
5:30pm to 7:30pm  
on the Historic plaza

### Contra Dance Lessons

Third Friday of the month  
Mesilla Community Center  
5:30pm to 11:00pm

### Senior Yoga Classes

Monday's - 7:00am to 8:00am  
Thursday's - 6:00pm to 7:00pm  
Saturday's - 10:00:am to 11:00am  
Mesilla Community Center

**Town of Mesilla Community Programs Department (524-3262)**

**Irene E. Parra, Special Events Coordinator/Recreation Director** (ext. 116)

For full calendar of events visit [www.mesillanm.gov](http://www.mesillanm.gov)

# Town of Mesilla Public Works Department

**Public Works Department** would like to thank all our residents and volunteers for your support and encouragement you have provided us during this difficult year. Currently, we are short staffed and working on providing a new public works team to continue our daily operating and maintenance duties.

## \*\*\*Grants Received\*\*\*

Water Trust Board (\$267,000.00) grant/loan to install Automated Meter Reading (AMR) and water lines. The digital smart water meter will improve low flow accuracy, detect leaks, high flow, detailed account analysis as low as 1 minute and resolution better than 1/10 gallon on residential meters. We will be able to view and graph customers' daily usage.

## Local Government Road Fund:

Phase II Calle de Santa Ana/ Segunda (\$63,516.00) road reconstruction will begin December 2017. Calle Primera (\$43,615.00) is scheduled for road construction 2018.

## Capital Outlay Phase I & II

Wastewater Collection on McDowell Road, to tie into existing collection system, which includes design and construction (\$400,000.00). Bid documents are being reviewed.

## Ensure Your Safety Call NM 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Before you start any excavation activity on your property, you are required by state law to call 811 or 1-800-321-2537 at least 2 business days before digging.

## \*\*\*Gas Leak: How to Recognize a Suspected Leak\*\*\*

Using your sense of sight, sound and smell will help you recognize a suspected leak. Here's what you should look for:

**Sight** - Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and "ground frosting" may be visible at high pressures. A gas leak may also be indicated by bubbles in wet or flooded areas, distinct patches of dead vegetation, dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames if the leak is ignited.

**Sound** - A hissing or roaring noise along the right-of-way of a pipeline could also indicate a natural gas leak.

**Smell** - Natural gas is odorless. Before it is delivered to your home, mercaptan is added which gives the gas a Sulphur or "rotten egg" smell to help detect leaks. If the gas is from an underground leak, the odorant may be filtered out by the ground.

Public  
Works

## \*\*\*Cold Weather Precautions\*\*\*

\*\*\*PROTECT THE 4 "P'S"\*\*\*

### People

- Check on the elderly and those who may have functional or access needs to make sure that they have sufficient warmth to get them through the cold weather

### Pets

- During extremely cold weather, pets should be kept indoors.

### Pipes

- While pipes generally do not freeze until the temperature drops into the 20s, pipes exposed to windy areas could experience cracking.
- Be sure that pipes are properly insulated, wrap newspaper or clothes around outside faucets, or in cold areas of homes. Let sensitive faucets run at a slow drip to allow for water to move, which helps prevent freezing.
- If you think a pipe might be frozen (you open a tap and no water comes out), don't take any chances, call a plumber and leave your tap open until they arrive.

### Plants

- Plants should be covered on cold nights with fabric to help keep them somewhat insulated during a freeze.

**Town of Mesilla Public Works Department (524-3262)**  
**On Call Emergency Number (24/7): 650-8830**

**Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director** (ext. 103)  
**New Mexico Gas Company 24-Hour Emergency Number**  
1-888- NM-GAS-CO (1-888-664-2726)  
**Zia Natural Gas Company** - 575-526-4427 or 800-453-5546

### Public Works Staff:

Dorothy Villa  
Tony Correa

## TOWN OF MESILLA BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

### Board of Trustees

**Nora L. Barraza**

*Mayor*

**Carlos Arzabal**

*Mayor Pro-tem*

**Stephanie Johnson-**

**Burick** Trustee

**Jesus Caro, Jr.**

Trustee

**Linda Flores** Trustee

### Planning, Zoning & Historical

### Appropriateness Commission

Russell Hernandez

Yolanda Lucero

Judy K. Houston

Gerard Nevarez

Roman Prieto

## VISITORS GUIDE

Come by Town Hall to pick up your copy of the Town of Mesilla's second edition of the official Visitors Guide, featuring Restaurants, Shops, History... and more!

## DIAL- A- RIDE

Dial-a-ride is a paratransit service that provides origin to destination on-demand transportation service to qualified individuals with disabilities as defined by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Fares are \$2.00 for each one-way trip. You may call (575)541-2777 for more information or to request a service.

## ATTENTION RESIDENTS



We currently have a secretary on duty at the Public Safety building Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 2:00pm. For non-emergency incidences or report requests by calling Central Dispatch:

**(575)526-0795 Select Option 6**

**For all emergencies OR when in doubt: CALL 911**

## Attention Veterans

*File your claims with the DAV at Mesilla Town Hall*

Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Mesilla Town Hall Conference Room

## **Town of Mesilla**

P.O. Box 10

Mesilla, NM 88046

(575) 524-3262

[www.mesillanm.gov](http://www.mesillanm.gov)

[www.facebook.com/oldmesilla](https://www.facebook.com/oldmesilla)

